

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 168259

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM HABIB

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE LABOR PROGRAM

REFERENCE: LISBON 5172; LISBON 5521

1. I HAVE DISCUSSED WITH IRVING BROWN THE QUESTION OF A
LABOR PROGRAM IN PORTUGAL, WHICH LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THERE
IS SOME MISUNDERSTANDING AS TO WHAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND
PROPOSED IN THIS REGARD. PARAGRAPHS A THRU E BELOW ARE SUM-
MARY OF BROWN'S PRINCIPAL POINTS AS OUTLINED IN HIS DIS-
CUSSIONS WITH ME:

A. BROWNSTATESTHAT HE HAS NEVER BEEN IN FAVOR OF AFL-CIO
PRESENCE IN TERMS OF AN AFL-CIO INSTITUTE IN LISBON. IT
SHOULD BE RECALLED THAT IT WAS SOARES WHO SAID TO BROWN THAT
A PROGRAM COULD NOT BE PUT INTO OPERATION WITHOUT AN AFL-
CIO REPRESENTATIVE SUCH AS MICHAEL BOGGS TO GIVE DIRECTION.
SOARES ALSO STATED IN HIS MEETING WITH BROWN THE IMPORTANCE
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OF ADOPTING AFL-CIO TRAINING MANUALS AND PAMPHLETS FOR USE
IN PORTUGAL.

B. THE MAJOR THRUST OF THE AFL-CIO PROPOSAL WAS TO HELP
PORTUGUESE TO TRAIN ORGANIZERS WHO WOULD BE ABLE TO ORGANIZE
WORKERS IN ORDER TO OPPOSE COMMUNIST CONTROL OF THE LABOR
MOVEMENT. THE QUESTION OF TACTICS, AND WHETHER THIS COULD

BE DONE WITHIN OR OUTSIDE THE CGTP WAS ONE FOR PORTUGUESE THEMSELVES TO DETERMINE. BROWN WOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH WHATEVER CENTER PORTUGUESE WOULD ESTABLISH FOR PURPOSE OF TRAINING ORGANIZERS TO DO THE JOB.

C. THE QUESTION OF DEALING WITH DIFFERENT POLITICAL GROUPINGS NEVER BECAME A CONTENTIOUS ISSUE WITH SOARES, ACCORDING TO BROWN. SOARES DID SAY TO BROWN THAT BROWN COULD NOT BET ON TWO HORSES, TO WHICH BROWN SAID HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS NOT A QUESTION OF BETTING OR TRYING TO PLAY ALL THE HORSES. IT WAS A QUESTION OF TRAINING TRADE UNIONISTS, NOT ON A POLITICAL BASIS, BUT ON A BASIS OF FIGHTING THE COMMON ENEMY--THE COMMUNISTS.

BROWN STATED THAT AFL-CIO WAS PREPARED TO DEAL SEPARATELY WITH PS AND PSD, BUT NOT WITH ONLY ONE. JUST AS IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT AFL-CIO WOULD TRY TO IMPOSE ANYTHING ON PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS, SO IS IT JUST AS INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WOULD WISH TO IMPOSE ON AFL-CIO ITS VIEWS ON TRADE UNION ISSUES AS THEY RELATE TO A PURELY TRADE UNION PROGRAM.

IN ANY EVENT, THIS IS AN ISSUE OF PRINCIPLE FOR THE AFL-CIO, AND IS NON-NEGOTIABLE, AS BROWN STATED TO SOARES.

D. IF THERE IS STILL A QUESTION BECAUSE OF THE FACT THAT
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U.S. GOVERNMENT MONEY IS INVOLVED, THIS ISSUE MUST BE FACED. BROWN RECALLED SAYING TO YOU THAT CERTAINLY THERE IS A RISK, BUT THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID A RISK IS TO DO NOTHING. IF THE POSITION OF SOARES IS THAT A DISTINCTION ON THIS QUESTION IS TO BE MADE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND OTHERS, THEN THE CONCLUSION FOLLOWS THAT ONLY THE GERMANS WILL BE ABLE TO OPERATE A PROGRAM. AS EVERYONE IS AWARE, THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION OPERATES WITH GERMAN GOVERNMENT FUNDS.

E. IF, AS HAS BEEN SAID, THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS CANNOT DEAL WITH THE AFL-CIO, THEN LET THEM SAY SO. THE AFL-CIO IS NOT ASKING THEM TO DO ANYTHING THEY DO NOT WISH TO DO. ON THE OTHER HAND, BROWN STATES THAT THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PS SHOULD BE MAXIMIZED IN THIS SITUATION. HE IS OF THE OPINION THAT THE MINISTER OF LABOR UNDERSTANDS TRADE UNION ISSUES BETTER THAN ANYONE IN PORTUGAL, AND THAT HE REALIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING THE PS AND PSD TOGETHER IN THE LABOR FIELD. IF THIS CANNOT BE DONE QUICKLY, THEN IT IS ALL THE MORE IMPORTANT THAT THE AFL-CIO WORK WITH TRADE UNIONISTS OF BOTH PS AND PSD PERSUASION. END SUMMARY.

2. IF ON BASIS OF FOREGOING YOU FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE
USEFUL TO TALK TO BROWN, HE IS PREPARED TO COME TO LISBON
FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH YOU. IN VIEW OF MY CONVERSATION WITH
BROWN, AND YOUR 5521, I THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF YOU
WOULD TALK TO HIM. YOU CAN REACH HIM THROUGH OUR LABOR
ATTACHE IN PARIS, JOHN WARNOCK. VANCE

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